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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

A C T I V I T I E S U P D A T E

**Hi-Mill Manufacturing Superfund Site
Highland, Michigan**

April 1990

On March 26, 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) completed the initial phase of Remedial Investigation (RI) field work at the Hi-Mill Manufacturing Company Superfund site. Since early November 1989, representatives of U.S. EPA and Hi-Mill Manufacturing (the potentially responsible party) have been on-site to investigate the geologic makeup of the site and to sample the ground water, sediments, surface water, and soil. Laboratory analysis of these samples will reveal the nature and extent of contamination at the site. Actual field work was performed by the Techna Corporation, working for Hi-Mill Manufacturing. All work was approved by U.S. EPA, and representatives of both the U.S. EPA and Michigan Department of Natural Resources observed the field work for compliance with the approved work plan.

In order to collect the samples, large pieces of equipment called "drill rigs" were used to drill deep holes at various locations in and around the site. Some of these holes, called "borings," were used to collect samples of soil below the ground surface. In some cases, these holes were used to install "monitoring wells" to collect ground-water samples. Samples were also collected from various parts of the adjacent Highland State Recreation Area in order to determine if activities at Hi-Mill have affected areas off-site.

During the week of March 26, field crews completed the sampling activities, removed the field trucks and drill rigs, and cleaned up the aftermath of site operations. Even though this marks the end of current field work, the project will continue. Laboratory analysis of samples will be conducted, the resulting data will be interpreted, a second round of ground-water sampling and laboratory analysis may be conducted in early summer, and an RI report will be written, detailing the findings of the field study. A risk assessment section will be included in the RI report, documenting levels of contamination found and how contamination could potentially affect the environment and surrounding community. Once the RI report is finalized (probably by Fall 1990), U.S. EPA will send you and other members of the community a summary of these findings.

If you have any questions about the Hi-Mill Manufacturing Superfund site, feel free to contact Dan O'Riordan, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at:

1-800-621-8431 (toll-free hotline)

1-312-886-4359 (office extension)